

Message Text

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UNCLAS RANGOON 1836

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION : HEROIN NARCOTICS CONTROL

FOR IOR/MEDIA REACTION IBS/PF VOA

1. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL "HEROIN" APPEARED IN BURMESE-LANGUAGE
NEWSPAPER, HARQHAWADDY, AUGUST 5, 1973:

2. (BEGIN TRANSLATION)

"OPIUM WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF HISTORY
IS USED BY THE LOWER CLASSES AND THE COUNTRIES IN THE EAST
ARE THE BIG CONSUMERS OF THIS DRUG.

3. "AS THE COUNTRIES IN THE
EAST HAVE BEEN SUBJECT COLONIES
OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED HAVE
SUPPRESSED THE EVILS OF OPIUM ON ONE HAND AND ALLOWED ITS SALE
UNDER THE LAW ON THE OTHER. BUT THE WHOLE WORLD HAS BEEN
TERRIFIED BY THE ARRIVAL OF HEROIN WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY BEYOND
THE MEANS OF THE LOWER CLASSES. THE REASON IS THAT HEROIN IS
DETRIMENTAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE BRIGHT PROSPECTS IN THE WORLD.

4. "HEROIN AT FIRST TOOK ROOT IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, BUT NOW
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IT HAS SPREAD TO WHOLE WORLD AND FOR BURMA IN PARTICULAR, HEROIN

HAS BECOME A VERY URGENT
PROBLEM AS SHE IS CLOSE TO ONE OF ITS
PROCESSING CENTERS.

5. "TODAY IT CAN NO LONGER BE SAID THAT BURMA HAS SUFFERED
FROM THE EVILS AND DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF HEROIN ONLY IN A
NEGLECTABLE WAY.

6. "THE RATE IN WHICH YOUTHS ARE BEING RUINED BY HEROIN IS
INCREASING DAILY, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES
TO SUPPRESS HEROIN BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT GENERALLY
BELONG TO UPPER SOCIAL CLASSES OR THEIR ASSOCIATES.

7. "IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, THE HOME MINISTRY
HAS RECENTLY ISSUED A DIRECTIVE FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BE
TAKEN AGAINST THE ABUSE OF NARCOTICS.

8. "IN THIS CONNECTION, THE FIRST STEP IS TO TAKE THE MOST
EFFECTIVE AND DETERRENT ACTION AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO ACTUALLY
IMPORT AND SMUGGLE HEROIN INTO THE COUNTRY AND THOSE WHO ARE
CONNECTED WITH THEM.

9. "THE OLD OPIUM ACT AND LEGAL ACTION AGAINST OPIUM DENNS WILL
NO LONGER HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT.

10. "THE SECOND STEP IS TO ELIMINATE AND UPROOT THE HEROIN
ADDICTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES IN THE LOCALITIES. THIS CAMPAIGN
SHOULD BE WELL ORGANIZED AND RUTHLESSLY CARRIED OUT WITH THE
HELP OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE PUBLIC SO THAT THERE WILL
BE A REDUCTION IN THE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE ADMITTED
FOR TREATMENT INTO THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL." END TRANSLATION.
HANSON

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